



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **12 October, 2022**. Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900 hrs. The mailing address is: American Legion Post 75, P.O. Box 42, Franklin, MA 02038. Website: <http://www.mapost75.com/>

Officer roll call:

Commander - John Milot	Present
1 st Vice Commander – Dick Hynes	Present
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer-John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant – Bruce Watkins	Present
Finance – Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Matt McGrath	Absent
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **11** members were in attendance.

NOTES:

1. Chaplain Bob was asking for volunteers for bingo at Cedarwood that Saturday, October 15.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

1. The minutes from the September 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The current bank balance is \$5403.67 with an available balance of \$2809.49. It was noted that a couple of members made generous donations to the bugle fund, thus giving the post enough funds to purchase a bugle with an insert. The report was approved and is on the post's website.
3. The 1st Vice Commander noted that we are at 52.5% renewal for 2023 membership which is slightly below the 55% target set by the state. A discussion was held on the need for new members. We will be getting transfers from the closing Medway post, but still need to find new members. It was decided for the post to pay the first-year membership dues for new (not transfer) members. There was also a brief discussion on whether moving the monthly meetings to Saturday mornings might help getting attendance at the meetings. It was voted to table this discussion.



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4. Chaplain Bob gave the schedule for visits to Franklin's assisted living facilities: Bingo at Cedarwoods on October 15; a veterans talk at Magnolia Heights on October 24; a Quilts of Valor event on November 16 at Magnolia Heights.
5. The quartermaster said the post has 2 jackets (1-Lg, 1 Lg long); 3 used pants. It was decided to purchase 3 new jackets (1 Lg and 2 Xlg) while we had the opportunity to purchase them at a good price.
6. The post's historian, Steve S., noted that the Harvest Festival went well. He met the son of the post's last commander before it shut down for 26 years. The individual said he had pictures and memorabilia from that time period and that he could show the historian what he had.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Bob Catalano thoroughly enjoyed his 100th birthday celebration held at the October coffee social at the Senior Center. He received a certificate from the state commander as well as many congratulations.
2. It was stressed again the importance of having us veterans attend and participate in as many veteran events as possible. The next event is the annual Veterans Day luncheon to be held on November 11, 11:00a.m. at the Elks Club. RSVP through the VSO office.
3. The commander is making a list of those members interested in participating in a funeral rifle squad. This would be in addition to the normal rifle squad and would entail those members who could participate with very little advance notice.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dick brought up having a new member initiation. It was decided to try and have it at this coming November's monthly meeting.
2. Dick received a ribbon to put on the flag for 100% participation.
3. Dick and John H. met with Ernest Carruthers, the quartermaster of the Franklin VFW post, and discussed the possibility of the 2 posts having a dinner together. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
4. Member Shannon N., the town's VSO, again talked of the Veterans Day luncheon. She also stated that she talks to veterans who come to her office about joining our post.
5. Frank C. told the post that the annual Wreaths Across America is on December 17 at 12p.m. Those interested in participating and going as a group should meet at the TV station at 10a. for the drive to Bourne. We voted on purchasing 10 wreaths for \$150.
6. The Veterans Need program was discussed and it was noted that donations are needed.



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7. The commander brought up that we are one of the sponsors this year for the Thanks to Yanks donation drive. Donations can be dropped off at the Costello Realty Group on 357 W. Central St.
8. Dave L. is getting the forms needed for our participation in poker tournaments in Walpole. This was a good money maker for the post last year.

GENERAL OLD BUSINESSS AND REMINDERS:

1. Bricks for the walkway on the Common can continue to be purchased for \$100 each to honor any veteran. The honoree can be someone living or deceased and they do not need to be from Franklin. Applications can be found on the town's website. The next set of bricks will be dedicated on Veteran's Day.
2. See in unfinished business an update on the cleaning of the markers in the town's cemeteries.
3. The veteran's coffee socials continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10a.m. at the Franklin Senior Center. All veterans are welcomed.
4. There is talk of forming an American Legion Auxiliary for women in Franklin.
5. A Franklin squadron of the Sons of the Legion has been formed. Alan Earls has been spearheading this endeavor and has been named the Commander Adjutant. If any member knows of anyone who may be qualified to join the squadron, they can contact Alan.
6. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
7. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the post's website.
8. If you know of any potential members, please direct them to the post's website for membership information and an application and also let Dick Hynes know so that he may give them a follow up call.
9. There is an American Legion Basic Training course. Upon successful completion you will receive a pin and a certificate of completion. See www.mylegion.org/training.
10. A podcast, Tango Alpha Lima, tells folks what's going on.

COMMITTEES

1. Post Strategic Plan - Dave Labonte, Matt McGrath and Dick Hynes.
2. Raffle committee - John Milot, Matt McGrath, Dick Hynes and Dave Labonte
3. Franklin High School Scholarship committee. – Kent, Ray, Steve S.



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4. Public Relations committee -John Hefele, Steve S.
5. Assisting/Visiting Veterans in Local hospitals. Matt McGrath leads this committee.
6. The American Legion Boys State program. Committee members: John Milot and Doug Wahl.
7. Franklin Funeral Homes committee –John M, Matt McGrath, Jim McNeil, John Hefele, Bob Markunis, Kent Belcher, Dave Labonte, and Doug Wahl.
8. Uniform Etiquette Committee – John Milot, Steve S. and Bob Markunis.
9. Poker tournament committee – Dave Labonte